

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A data relay processing method comprising the steps of, sending pieces of information from a plurality of respective terminals, including a piece of information on a schedule of usage of a transmission band by the beginning of a term, another piece of information on a schedule of the transmission band which is available to be assigned at the time of the beginning of the term, another piece of information on a ~~schedule of a schedule~~ between the beginning and end of the term defining a duration of the term where the transmission band is available to be partially assigned or partially exchanged by the beginning of the term,

holding each respective schedule of each respective terminal; based on the schedule of usage, the schedule of transmission band, the schedule of term, and the communication price partially reserving or partially assigning the transmission band between the respective terminals, and

partially assigning and partially exchanging a predetermined amount of the transmission band between the plurality of respective terminals at the time of the beginning of the term for maximizing the usage efficiency of all the available transmission band during the term duration based on the schedule of usage of the transmission band and the schedule of the transmission band which is available to be assigned as defined as a band reservation rule.

2. (Previously Presented) A data relay processing method according to Claim 1 wherein, based on history information of the past processing record with respect to processes of partially assigning or partially exchanging of the transmission band between said respective terminals and based on information with respect to said transmission band, said transmission band is , partially assigned or partially exchanged.

3. - 40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) A data relay processing method according to Claim 1 or 2 wherein, the information sent from each terminal is stored in respective terminals; and

the transmission band available to be assigned, defined by the piece of information from one terminal on a schedule of the transmission band which is available to be assigned, is assigned to or exchanged with an other terminal based on the information stored in respective terminals, thereby connecting the one terminal and the other terminal to a server.

42. (Previously Presented) A data relay processing method according to Claim 1 or 2 wherein, the information sent from each terminal is stored in respective terminals; and

during the term defined by the piece of information from one terminal on a schedule of a term where a transmission band is available to be assigned or exchanged, the transmission band available to be assigned, defined by the piece of information from the one terminal on a schedule of the transmission band which is available to be assigned, is assigned to or exchanged with an other terminal based on the information stored in respective terminals, thereby connecting the one terminal and the other terminal to a server during the term defined by the piece of information of the one terminal on the schedule of the term where the transmission band is available to be assigned or exchanged.

43. (New) A data relay processing method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of determining whether or not the partial assignment or the partial exchange of the transmission band should be executed, based on necessary cost for the partial assignment or the partial exchange of the transmission band.